University of Pennsylvania investigators at a new Penn research center will focus on key physical principles that underpin cancer’s development and growth.

A five-year, $10 million grant award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is supporting the establishment of the Physical Sciences Oncology Center at Penn, or PSOC@Penn. It is one of four centers the National Cancer Institute of the NIH is funding across the country as part of its Physical Sciences in Oncology Network. The network was started in 2009 in recognition of the fact that perspectives rooted in physics, mathematics, chemistry and engineering can all contribute to cancer research.

The Penn team members will make fundamental physical measurements as they clarify mechanisms of how tumors become palpably distinct masses and also how such physical changes contribute to tumor growth. Their research will focus on liver cancer; more than 30,000 people in the United States are diagnosed each year with liver cancer, according to the American Cancer Society, and the five-year survival rate is less than 15 percent. New methods to improve early detection and treatment of the disease are needed.

“A key challenge facing cancer research in this age of precision medicine is to deeply comprehend the molecular causes and consequences of tissue changes that are often first measured by clinicians in physical exams of tumors,” said center leader Dennis E. Discher, the Robert D. Bent Professor in Penn’s School of Engineering & Applied Science.

The Center represents a convergence of interests and achievements of co-investigators, including professors Rebecca Wells (medicine), Paul Janney (physiology), Emma Furch (pathology), David Kaplan (gastroenterology & immunology), Roger Greenberg (cancer biology) and Mark Lemmon (biochemistry) in Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine; Ravi Radhakrishnan (bioengineering), Vivek Sharma (materials science & engineering) and John Crocker (chemical/biomolecular engineering) in Penn’s School of Engineering & Applied Science; and Andrea Liu (physics & astronomy), Tobias Baumgart (chemistry) and Wei Guo (biology) in Penn’s School of Arts & Sciences.

“Many tumors are first detected as hard lumps of stiff tissue,” Dr. Wells said. “In some cases such as breast cancer, increased tissue stiffness appears to be a risk factor for cancer. Our research will focus on liver cancer because current clinical evidence suggests that liver stiffening may work in the same way, as a high-risk factor for developing that disease.”

The researchers will interact closely, bringing together world leaders in cell and tissue mechanobiology and physics-based theory. They will also employ single molecule imaging and molecular biophysics in foundational studies of molecular and tissue profiles, which are rapidly emerging as a way to precisely define a patient’s disease.

“Results from our initial studies already suggest that stiffening of tissue can increase cell proliferation and lead to other cellular changes that contribute to cancer,” said Dr. Janney.

Specific molecules and cells that Center investigators discover to be contributors to physical changes in liver cancer will become candidates for new therapies.

The key scientific interest driving PSOC@Penn’s research agenda is an emerging awareness that tumor microenvironments can contribute to how cell sub-populations are selected to grow and further evolve. In solid tumors such as liver cancer, it has long been known that stiff, scar-like collagen accumulates in nearby normal tissue, much like what occurs when tissue is injured. Recent research has also shown that a physical stiffness of microenvironments can in turn promote proliferation and can influence gene expression related to cancer’s spread.

“We hypothesize that differences between cells in a given population can arise due to physical properties of microenvironments.” Dr. Discher said. “Furthermore, mutations might also be caused directly by physical properties of microenvironments and thus drive cancer.”

PSOC@Penn will approach questions regarding the effects of physical microenvironment on tumor development with new multidisciplinary methods. While focused on liver cancer, the Center will develop widely applicable techniques for measuring both the mechanical properties and molecular makeup of a patient’s tumors compared to adjacent normal tissue. Theoretical approaches from the fields of soft matter physics and engineering will enable better interpretation of clinical results and predict effects of physical, biochemical and drug interactions.

Physicochemical studies of single cancer cells will go beyond the cell membrane and into the nucleus. The membrane is how a cell senses physical properties of its surrounding environment, but that information must be transmitted inside the cell for it to change its molecular machinery. Center researchers will visualize this process with super-resolution microscopy, a method that earned its inventors a Nobel Prize in 2014. Probing down to the single-molecule level will provide sufficient structural information to enable realistic simulations on supercomputers, which can be used to generate predictions of these molecules’ functions.

The Center also aims to understand how the shape of the cell’s nucleus changes as part of a (continued on page 2)
Death

Daniel W. Dietrich II, ICA Overseer

Daniel W. Dietrich II, a philanthropist who gave generously to Penn’s Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA), died on September 1 at Paoli Hospital. He was 73 years old.

Mr. Dietrich earned his bachelor’s degree in art history from Hamilton College. He was heir to a family conglomerate that included Luden’s cough drops, where he once served as vice president. He had served on ICA’s board of overseers beginning in 1969 and became an emeritus overseer in 2014. Earlier this year, Mr. Dietrich gave $10 million to ICA, doubling the institution’s endowment (Almanac May 12, 2015). The gift supports ICA’s artist-centered mission and guarantees multi-year curatorial research and exhibition development opportunities.

Mr. Dietrich is survived by his partner, Deborah Ullman, and three sons, William S. Hildreth, Daniel W. III and Adam.

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Establishing Provost’s Arts Advisory Council

Provost Vincent Price and Vice Provost for Faculty Anita Allen announce the creation of a Provost’s Arts Advisory Council. Under the leadership of Vice Provost Allen, the Council will advise the Provost on and map the future of the arts at Penn. Building on the achievements of the three-year Art and Culture Initiative (2012-2015) co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the School of Arts & Sciences and led by Professor Karen Beckman, the Council will develop new arts initiatives and collaborations among arts centers and academic programs, arts grants, and draft proposals to strategically advance the arts and arts education at Penn, consistent with University-wide goals of innovation, social impact and the integration of knowledge.

The members of the Council are:
- Norman Badler, Rachleff Professor of Computer and Information Science, SEAS
- Karen Beckman, chair and Jaffe Professor of the History of Art, SAS
- Winka Dubbeldam, chair and professor of architecture, School of Design
- Al Filreis, Kelly Professor of English, SAS, and faculty director, Kelly Writers House
- Jeffrey Kirkaldy, associate dean for arts and letters and Kenan Professor of Music, SAS
- Lynn Marsden-Allsop, University curator and director, Arthur Ross Gallery
- Laurie McCall, director, Platt Student Performing Arts House
- Joshua Mosley, chair and professor of fine arts, School of Design
- Michael Rose, managing director, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
- Amy Sadao, Dietrich Director, Institute of Contemporary Art
- Julian Siggers, Williams Director, Penn Museum
- Anthony Sorrentino, executive director, Office of the Executive Vice President
- Karl Ulrich, vice dean for entrepreneurship and innovation and CIBC Professor of Entrepreneurship and E-Commerce, Wharton School

To Report A Death

Almanac appreciates being informed of the deaths of current and former faculty and staff members, students and other members of the University community. Call (215) 898-5274 or email almanac@upenn.edu

University Operations During the Visit by Pope Francis to Philadelphia

Last month we announced that Penn would suspend normal operations on Friday, September 25, to accommodate the travel and logistical challenges that will exist in the Philadelphia region during the visit by Pope Francis. We write now to provide an update on the University’s preparations.

As a reminder, all classes and University-sponsored events are cancelled on this date. Designated essential personnel—including offices such as but not limited to Public Safety, Dining Services and Facilities that provide essential services, University emergency personnel and those responsible for the health and safety of students and lab animals—will be required to report to work and should consult with their supervisors about accommodations and scheduling. Other staff members, faculty members and students should treat the day under the same protocols as a weather-related suspension of operations. Penn Medicine staff should consult with their supervisors about work schedules.

A web page has been created with details on the hours of operation and availability of student services during the weekend of the Pope’s visit. The website will be updated as any new or additional information becomes available, and can be accessed at: http://www.upenn.edu/about/papal-visit

During the Pope’s visit, traffic closures will extend to 38th Street. A map showing the areas of the city that will be blocked to traffic can be accessed directly at this link: http://www.upenn.edu/about/papal-visit-maps

The Division of Public Safety is working with essential personnel from the University and Penn Medicine to provide access, as well as retail stores and restaurants in University City to access the traffic box for essential business purposes during specific non-peak hours.

Public Safety has also developed a set of alternate routes to campus for those who will need to travel to work during the Papal visit. While road closures and traffic cannot be guaranteed, the alternate suggestions may provide you with useful options to consider if you must travel during this time period. The alternate routes can be found at: http://www.upenn.edu/about/papal-visit-maps\#papal-routes

Additional information from the City of Philadelphia can be found at this site: http://www.phila.gov/InformationCenters/pope/Pages/default.aspx

We very much appreciate the dedication and commitment of all those in the Penn family who will be working through this historic weekend to ensure that our students, faculty and staff have access to facilities and services and patients at our hospitals continue to receive world-class care.

—Vincent Price, Provost
—Craig Carnaroli, Executive Vice President

$10 Million NIH Grant: Physical Sciences Oncology Center at Penn

(response to altered microenvironments. Nuclei differ in their stiffness, which can prevent them from moving through tight tissue spaces. Whether and why such processes might also lead to damage of the DNA contained therein will be important to quantify, as DNA damage is a likely cause of mutations that drive cancer. Similar studies will be conducted of the nucleus in other types of liver cells, including immune cells that might also be made to attack cancer cells. New biophysical concepts, as well as methods, tools and mathematical theories, are all integral to the diversity of the Center’s efforts.

“Integration across the Penn campus will be enhanced by the new Center’s connections to other centers in the Physical Sciences in Oncology Network,” Dr. Discher said. “This should stimulate the pace of discovery in these exciting topics.”

This highly interdisciplinary effort will extend beyond Penn’s campus and the NIH’s network. Education and outreach activities will build bridges between communities. The Center will promote dialogue between physical scientists and theorists on the one side, and cancer biologists on the other, in order to facilitate the development of new breakthroughs. Seminars, symposia and additional Center activities will be open to all interested researchers as well as the public, and outreach will extend to demonstrations at cancer awareness forums. Penn’s new Center will support the cancer research community by providing opportunities for quantitative investigators and for students to receive education in cancer biology and to become embedded in laboratories. The Center will also support pilot grants for interdisciplinary, collaborative research at the intersection of the physical sciences and cancer research.

Key collaborators of the Center include Chi Van Dang, director of Penn’s Abramson Cancer Center; liver and transplant surgeons Kim Olthoff and Abraham Shaked; cell biologist Michael Lampson and outreach coordinator James McGonigle.

From the Office of the Provost
Inaugural China Research and Engagement Fund Awards

Penn has 180 faculty members with more than 275 projects in or relating to China. The CREF awards represent another major milestone in Penn’s engagement in China following the opening of the Penn Wharton China Center in Beijing in March (Almanac March 17, 2015). The Center provides a space for research, academic and student exchanges and for broad partnerships with China, as well as events and symposia on important academic topics for students, faculty and alumni.

2015 Recipients of the China Research and Engagement Fund Awards

Penn Partners: PSOM (non-invasive cardiovascular medicine and radiology) and China Partners: PLA General Hospital (cardiovascular medicine), Peking Union Medical Center Hospital (cardiovascular medicine). Dinesh Jagasia, professor of medicine in dentistry program; Hyun Koo, professor of orthodontics; School of Dental Medicine and Penn Partners: School of Dental Medicine (biochemistry); PSOM (biomedical and pharmaceutical Nanomedicine); Penn Center for Musculoskeletal Diseases; SEAS (bioengineering and chemical & biomolecular engineering) and China Partners: Si-chuan University (West China College of Stomatolog-y); Peking University School and Hospital of Stomatolog-ical surgery & maxillofacial surgery; Wuhan University (School of Stomatolog); Fourth Military Medical University (School of Stomatolog); Drum Tower Clinical Medical College of Nanjing Medical University.

Linguistic Diversity in China; Mark Liberman, director, Linguistic Data Consortium and Co-Principal Investigators: Christopher Cieri, executive director; Juahong Yuan, associate director of special collections; School of Linguistic Sciences; and Penn Partners: SAS (East Asian languages and civilizations and linguistics) and China Partners: Beijing Normal University; Minzu University; Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (diallectology and phonemics); Beijing Language and Culture University (School of Linguistic Sciences).

Ownership Challenges and the Next Round of Reform of Chinese State-Controlled Enterprises; Marshall Meyer, professor emeritus of management and scientifically rigorous policy; Chathanais Anien, Harrison, professor of management and business economics and public policy; Minyuan Zhao, associate professor of management; Linda Zhao, professor of statistics and Penn Partners: PSOM (East Asian languages and civilizations and linguistics) and China Partners: Wharton Global Initiatives; Shanghai Jiaotong University (Aianti School); Peking University (Ciscu Leadership Program, Guanghua School); Gavekal Dragonomics (financial research and policy); and China Partners: Shanghai Jiaotong University (Aianti School); Peking University (Ciscu Leadership Program, Guanghua School); Gavekal Dragonomics (financial research and policy).

Building Capacity for Interprofessional Pain Education and Evidence-based Practice to Improve Perioperative Pain Care in China; Rosemary Polomo, professor of pain practice; professor of anesthesiology & critical care and Co-Principal Investigators: Renyu Liu, associate professor of anesthesiology & critical care, co-director, Penn-China Anesthesiology Partnership Program; Joshua H. Atkins, assistant professor of anesthesiology & critical care, co-director, Penn-China Anesthesiology Partnership Program; School of Nursing and Penn Partners: PSOM (anesthesiology and critical care) and China Partners: Peking University (School of Nursing); Peking University (School of Nursing).
ASA Honors

Two Penn Medicine researchers from the Center for Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics (CCEB) were honored with the 2015 Outstanding Student Application Award from the American Statistical Association (ASA) in August at the Joint Statistical Meetings.

Authors of the paper include Wensheng Guo, professor of biostatistics in the department of biostatistics & epidemiology at the Perelman School of Medicine and a scholar in the CCEB, and Anne R. Cappola, associate professor in the division of endocrinology, diabetes & metabolism at Penn's Perelman School of Medicine and an associate scholar in the CCEB. The paper, titled “Modeling Bivariate Longitudinal Hormone Profiles by Hierarchical State Space Models” and published in the Journal of American Statistical Association, was recognized for its contribution to modeling the complex feed-forward relationship between different hormones in humans.

In addition, Mary D. Sammel, professor of biostatistics in biostatistics & epidemiology at Penn, was elected as a Fellow of the ASA. Dr. Sammel was recognized for her outstanding contributions in introducing and establishing statistical science as a core aspect of the field of women’s health and reproduction research; for the achievement of a stellar, relevant and important body of work in women’s health; for outstanding mentoring of women and junior researchers; and for major contributions in the development of statistical methodology.

Rinad Beidas: ABCT President’s New Researcher Award

Rinad Beidas, assistant professor of psychology in the department of psychiatry at the Perelman School of Medicine and a senior fellow in the Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics at Penn, was recently honored with the President’s New Researcher Award from the Association for Behavior and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT).

Dr. Beidas was recognized for her robust body of early research on the dissemination and implementation of evidence-based practices (EBPs)—those practices proven to be most successful through clinical expertise, scientific research and patient preference—in the treatment of youth with psychiatric disorders in community settings.

Urs Giger: Excellence in Feline Research Award

Urs Giger, the Charlotte Newton Sheppard Professor of Medicine in Penn’s School of Veterinary Medicine and a professor of hematology in the Perelman School of Medicine, received the 2015 Excellence in Feline Research Award from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council for Research, the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) and the Wynn Feline Foundation. Dr. Giger was selected for his outstanding contributions in advancing feline health through his clinical and basic research, service and teaching in feline medicine over the past 30 years. In particular, his research in feline clinical genetics, hematology and transfusion medicine has been transformative. The award and a $2,500 honorarium were presented at a reception at the University of California, Davis in August.

Helen McFie: Rowing Champion

Helen McFie, lecturer in foreign languages and co-director of the Italian language program at Penn, is also a champion rower. She represented Vesper Boat Club at the US Rowing Masters National Championship in August in Camden, New Jersey. Dr. McFie won a 5x5, or five gold medals for five races.

NIH Neuro Startup Challenge Winners

Krystle Karosick, MLA’15, a project manager in the department of neurology at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and Medha Sengupta, MLA’15, a clinical coordinator at Penn’s Perelman School of Medicine, were winners in the National Institute of Health’s (NIH) Neuro Startup Challenge. The NIH developed the challenge to attract students to create launch campaigns for their unlicensed technologies, all of which treat brain-related illnesses.

Ms. Karosick and Ms. Sengupta are now working to market a device that simulates a blast-induced traumatic brain injury (TBI), offering hope for the future diagnosis and treatment of TBIs. This new technology is unique because of its ability to examine and record—a cellular level—what occurs when brain cells are exposed to a blast from an explosive device.

Penn’s Robotic Soccer Team: RoboCup Winners

Penn’s robotic soccer team won the RoboCup World Cup’s AdultSize Humanoid League for the second year in a row. Its robot, THORwIn, a collaboration with UCLA, beat Iran’s Team Baset in a 5-4 shootout in Heifei, China. Coached by Daniel Lee, director of the School of Engineering & Applied Science’s GRASP Lab, the robotic soccer team consists of Steve McGill, Seung-Joon YI, Heejin Jeong, Jinwook Huh, Marcell Missura, Dickens He, Sagar Poudel, Jianqiao Li, Yongbo Qian, Rachel Han, Kyuul Lee and Justin Small.

Competing in RoboCup’s most advanced league, “AdultSize Humanoid,” THORwIn had to locate the ball, dribble around obstacles and shoot against the opponent’s robotic goalie to score. To simulate the human experience of the game, the robots must use eye-like cameras to see the ball, goals and other players, and use brain-like onboard processors to put all of this information together. Most importantly, the robots must make all decisions autonomously.

2016 Models of Excellence Award Nominations: October 29

Penn staff members are known for their exemplary work, and now is your chance to recognize these efforts with Penn’s 2016 Models of Excellence award. Nominations for the 2016 awards are open now through October 29, 2015.

The Models of Excellence award program celebrates the extraordinary achievements of full- and part-time staff across the University’s schools and centers. Awards are given in three categories:

- Models of Excellence Award—Recognizes staff member accomplishments that reflect initiative, leadership, increased efficiency and a deep commitment to service.
- Model Supervisor Award—Honors supervisors who contribute to Penn’s success.
- Pillars of Excellence Award—Celebrates the important work that weekly-paid staff members do to promote Penn’s success.

New this year, you have an easier, greener way to nominate the exceptional staff members you know by using an online application.

The form is available at https://www.hr.upenn.edu/models

All nominees receive a certificate of appreciation for their service. Models of Excellence, Pillars of Excellence and Model Supervisor winners each receive $500 and a symbolic award. Nominees selected for honorable mention receive $250 and a symbolic award. Awards will be presented at the Models of Excellence ceremony on March 30, 2016 in Irvine Auditorium. The entire Penn community is invited to attend.

Visit https://www.hr.upenn.edu/models for more information about the Models of Excellence program, or contact Human Resources at models@hr.upenn.edu or (215) 898-1012 if you have questions.

—Division of Human Resources
The University Research Foundation (URF) is now accepting applications for the October 23, 2015 deadline. The URF is an intramural funding program that provides up to $50,000 support for research projects and up to $3,000 for conference support.

The objectives of the URF research program are to:

1. help junior faculty undertake pilot projects that will enable them to successfully apply for extramural sources of funding and aid in establishing their careers as independent investigators;
2. help established faculty perform novel, pioneering research to determine project feasibility and develop preliminary data to support extramural grant applications;
3. provide support in disciplines where extramural support is difficult to obtain and where significant research can be facilitated with internal funding; and
4. provide limited institutional matching funds that are required as part of a successful external peer-reviewed application.

URF Review Panels comprise established Penn faculty members and are charged with giving preference to projects that meet one of the aforementioned criteria.

As part of the University’s commitment to providing research opportunities to scholars across our campus community, URF applicants are encouraged to include undergraduate student participants within the framework of their proposals. URF Review Panels will take undergraduate participation under strong consideration when evaluating and scoring proposals. Should applicants require assistance in identifying interested and qualified undergraduates, the Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships (CURF) will be glad to provide support: curf@upenn.edu

Faculty members are invited to submit their research applications to one of four disciplinary areas: Biomedical Sciences, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Engineering, and Social Science and Management. In addition, URF offers a Conference Support program to provide funding for meetings designed to enhance existing research and scholarly programs, particularly in disciplines where external funding is difficult to obtain. Conferences that promote interdisciplinary and multi-school participation are given priority.

Complete details about the URF and links to the forms can be found on the Office of the Vice Provost for Research website at www.upenn.edu/research/funding/university_research_foundation

Spring 2015: University Research Foundation Awards and Conference Support Awards

Stefan Al, School of Design, city & regional planning; Sustainable Urban Form: A Comparative Analysis of Asian High-Density Blocks
Montserrat Anguera, School of Veterinary Medicine, animal biology, Faulty X-chromosome silencing as significant contributor for female-biased autoimmune
Robert Aronowitz, School of Arts & Sciences, history & sociology of science, Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Medicine
Lee Bassett, School of Engineering & Applied Science, electrical & systems engineering, New Tools for Imaging Neuronal Dynamics using Quantum Probes
Erfen Bi, Perelman School of Medicine, cell & developmental biology, Developing a powerful model for mechanistic analysis of cell abscission
Margaret Bruchac, School of Arts & Sciences, anthropology, Fictive Kin: Re-assembling Frank Speck’s Native Relations and Collections
Robin Clark, School of Arts & Sciences, linguistics, Drift and Selection in Language Evolution
Karen Detlefsen, School of Arts & Sciences, philosophy, Women, Liberty, Education Early Modern Philosophy of Education
Zhengxia Dou, School of Veterinary Medicine, clinical studies, House-hold food waste composition and recovery assessment
Andrea Doyle, School of Social Policy & Practice, Trauma-Informed Skills for African American Women with a Diagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) and HIV
David Eckmann, Perelman School of Medicine, anesthesiology, Nanotechnology of biological materials
Joseph Farrell, School of Arts & Sciences, classical studies, The Language of the Past and the Future of Ancient Studies
Loretta Flanagan-Cato, School of Arts & Sciences, psychology, Dopamine-extradiol interactions and amygdala function
Grant Frame, School of Arts & Sciences, Near Eastern languages & civilizations, Completing the Royal Inscriptions of Sargon II of Assyria
Ira Harkavy, School of Arts & Sciences, Nettter Center, University-Assisted Community Schools: Advancing the Model Locally, Nationally, and Globally
Matthew Hayes, Perelman School of Medicine, psychiatry, Examination of novel neuroendocrine signaling pathways to affect food reward
Olena Jacenko, School of Veterinary Medicine, biomedical studies, Could a young niche rejuvenate hematopoiesis?
F. Brad Johnson, Perelman School of Medicine, pathology & laboratory medicine, Deciphering functions of microRNAs encoded from HLA class I loci

*Michael Kahana, School of Arts & Sciences, psychology, 2016 Context and Episodic Memory Symposium
*Justin Khoury, School of Arts & Sciences, physics & astronomy, New Frontiers in Cosmology and String Theory
Bekir Harun Kucuk, School of Arts & Sciences, history & sociology of science, Enlightenment and Imperial Decline: Ottoman Cultures of Naturalism, 1650-1750
*Annette Lareau, School of Arts & Sciences, sociology, Culture and Interaction Conference
Christopher Lengner, School of Veterinary Medicine, animal biology, Identifying markers for the prospective isolation of reserve intestinal stem cells
Catherine McDonald, School of Nursing, family & community health, A Pilot Study of a Mobile Technology Monitoring System to Assess a Web-based Intervention for Teen Risky Driving
Scott Poethig, School of Arts & Sciences, biology, The evolution of vegetative phase change in the Ascomycete
Avishag Reisman, Graduate School of Education, Practice-Based Coaching and Professional Development: Supporting Teacher Facilitation of Whole-Class Text-based History Discussion
Charles Brian Rose, School of Arts & Sciences, classical studies, The World of Phrygian Gordian, Royal City of Midas
Andrew Saunders, School of Design, architecture, Digital Analysis of the Latent Topological Structure of Baroque Architecture
Theodore Schurr, School of Arts & Sciences, anthropology, Genetic History of Los Floridanos, Florida’s First Spanish Families
Patrick Seale, Perelman School of Medicine, cell & developmental biology, Impact of aging on beige fat differentiation and energy expenditure
Robert Seyfarth, School of Arts & Sciences, psychology, What Makes a Good Seeing Eye Dog
Tatyana Svitkina, School of Arts & Sciences, biology, Acquisition of a fluorescence microscope
John Tresch, School of Arts & Sciences, history & sociology of science, Sorting Brains Out: Tasks, Tests, and Trials in the Neuro- and Mind Sciences, 1890-2015
Kevin Turner, School of Engineering & Applied Science, mechanical engineering & applied mechanics, Improving Fracture Resistance of Polymer using Cellulose Nanofibrils
Amazonian warrior women, Genghis Khan, even King Midas and his golden touch—all have their moment in the spotlight with the Penn Museum’s popular Great Myths and Legends evening lecture series, featuring leading scholars from the Penn Museum, the University of Pennsylvania and beyond. The series kicks off Wednesday, October 7 at 6 p.m., and continues the first Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. through June 2016. Guests can sign up for a series subscription and save: $40, general public; $2, Museum members; and $10 at the door based on availability. For more information, call (215) 898-2680. To register, visit http://www.penn.museum/lectureseries. The eighth season of this unique program features the work of 15 Penn Museum members. Individual lectures with advance registration are $5, general public; $2, Museum members; and $10 at the door based on availability.

Penn Museum stays open first Wednesdays until 8 p.m., and lecture guests are welcome to visit the galleries after the programs.

Great Myths and Legends Series Lineup

October 7: Jennifer Wegner, associate curator, Egyptian Section: Imhotep: From Architect to Deity to Villain. This presentation focuses on the historical figure of Imhotep, who designed the remarkable Step Pyramid complex at Saqqara, built during the reign of King Djoser (ca. 2687–2668 BCE). After his death, Imhotep was regarded as a great sage and was later deified—becoming one of the few human beings to join the Egyptian pantheon. As a god, Imhotep was regarded as a patron of healers. Dr. Wegner examines his rise from royal architect to divine being, concluding with an exploration of his appearance in pop culture today.

November 4, Steve Tinney, associate curator-in-charge, Near East Section: Adapa the Sumerian Hero Twins. After his death, Imhotep was regarded as a great sage and was later deified—becoming one of the few human beings to join the Egyptian pantheon. As a god, Imhotep was regarded as a patron of healers. Dr. Wegner examines his rise from royal architect to divine being, concluding with an exploration of his appearance in pop culture today.

December 2, Morris Rossabi, Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University: Genghis Khan: Barbarian Conqueror or Harbinger of Democracy. The world has generally viewed Genghis Khan as a barbaric conqueror whose troops raped and murdered hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people, destroyed towns and cities throughout Asia and Europe. However, several popular writers have recently portrayed him as an advocate of democracy, international law and women’s rights. This illustrated lecture seeks to provide a balanced depiction of Genghis Khan and explain the reasons for the myths that have developed about the man and the people who established the largest contiguous land empire in world history.

January 6, Janet Monge, curator of physical anthropology, and Jennifer Wegner, curator of Near East Antiquities and the Search for the “First Englishman.” In the early 20th century, hominid fossils were unearthed all over the mainland continent of Europe, but not a single fossil representing human evolution was found in Great Britain. The Piltdown Fossil Forgery, and the archaeologists and curators behind it, are responsible for a forager who altered the bones of a modern human skull and an orangutan jaw, passing them off as a plausible fossil find. Who committed the forgery is considered one of the great mysteries of human evolutionary studies, but the reasons why the British scholarly community accepted it is more broadly revealing of the nature of the scientific endeavor.

February 3, Megan Kassabam, Weigarten Assistant Curator, American Section, and Simon Martin, Assistant Curator, American Section: Hero Twins of the Americas: Myths of Origin, Duality and Vengeance. Myths concerning the “hero twins” are widespread from Canada to South America. In the archetypal Maya myth, a pair of twin brothers battle with a range of monsters and death deities as they seek to make the world safe for humankind. Instead of defeating their enemies in trials of strength, they outwit them in games of skill, ingenuity and magic, offering role models of how best to survive death and ultimately attain rebirth into the sky. A variety of myths throughout North America draw on these same themes but differ dramatically in the details, demonstrating the incredible antiquity of the basic story and the relationships between the diverse cultures of the New World.

March 2, C. Brian Rose, Ferry Curator-in-Charge, Mediterranean Section: The Golden Age of King Midas. Midas was indisputably the most famous ruler of the Phrygian kingdom in central Turkey, and his Golden Touch made him an especially favorite subject in Greek legend. His first monumental project as king was a colossal tomb for his father (ca. 740 B.C.) that was excavated by the University of Pennsylvania in 1957, and the finds from that tomb form the centerpiece of the “Golden Age of King Midas” exhibit at the Penn Museum (February-November 2016). Dr. Rose provides an overview of the city that King Midas ruled and his diplomatic outreach to the Greeks and his antagonistic relationship with the Assyrians.

April 6, Annette Yoshiko Reed, assistant professor of religious studies: The Queen of Sheba in History and Legend. Best known from the Bible’s account of her marriage to the wise king Solomon, the Queen of Sheba has attracted the curiosity of Jews, Christians and Muslims for millennia. The lecture traces tales about her from Israel to Ethiopia, and explores how traditions about her have traveled between different religions and cultures.

May 4, Jeremy McNemery, Davidson Kenney Professor and Chair of Classical Studies: Warrior Women: Amazons and the Greek Imagination. This examines Amazons in Greek legend and art. Who were these women known in the society of the ancient Near East? Was there a source of curiosity, wonder and fear in the Greek imagination?

June 1, Paul Cobb, professor of Islamic history: The Arabian Nights: Medieval Fantasy and Modern Forgery. The Arabian Nights is probably the medieval Arabic book best known in the west, full of rippling yarns and vivid characters that have influenced film, music and literature for centuries. Surprisingly, some of its most cherished tales, such as those of Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves, Sindbad and even Aladdin were added by 15th-century translators. Dr. Cobb delves into the fascinating history of this book from its origins in ancient Middle Eastern myths to its status as an European bestseller during the Enlightenment.

Employee Resource Fair: An Opportunity to Participate

Dear University of Pennsylvania Departments & External Vendors,

The Penn Professional Staff Assembly (PPSA) and the Penn Weekly-Paid Professional Staff Assembly (WPPSA), in partnership with the Office of Human Resources, are co-sponsoring an Employee Resource Fair on Thursday, October 8 from noon-2 p.m. in Bodek Lounge and the Reading Room in Houston Hall. The purpose of the fair is to provide information to employees regarding the various campus resources and services available to them. The fair will be open to the entire Penn community.

We are excited to offer you an opportunity to participate in the 2015 Employee Resource Fair. We would welcome representation from your area and encourage you to showcase your services. If you would like to participate, pre-registration is required, and we ask that two representatives from your organization attend. All participants bring both informational and promotional materials on their services, brochures, giveaways, etc. Please feel free to advertise your participation in the Resource Fair through your email lists and newsletters. Set-up and breakdown will take place from 11 a.m. to noon and from 2 p.m. until 2:30 p.m.

Space is limited so register today. In order to secure your reservation, complete the registration by September 29, 2015 at 11:55 a.m. at https://ppsa.resourcefair.com/Auth/Authenticate/

In addition to the Employee Resource Fair there will be a Volunteer Fair organized in tandem with the event. This Volunteer Fair takes place in the Reading Room right next to Bodek Lounge. PPSA invites groups from the Philadelphia area to inform members of the Penn community about the volunteer opportunities they have available. There will be approximately 15-10 local non-profits represented at the fair.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration to participate in the 2015 Employee Resource Fair. For all inquiries, please contact pspsa@exchange.upenn.edu.

Lucia DiNapoli, PPSA Chair
Rosa Vargas, WPPSA Chair
**EXHIBIT**


**SPECIAL EVENT**

17 Faculty and Staff American Red Cross Blood Drive, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., Café 38, Irvine Auditorium. To sign up, visit: https://penn-ppsa.org/event/faculty-and-staff-american-red-cross-blood-drive/

**TALKS**

21 I Am from Xinjiang; Kurbanjan Samat, Central China TV; noon; CSCC Conference Room 345, Fisher-Bennett Hall (Center for the Study of Contemporary China).

**AT PENN Deadlines**

The September AT PENN calendar is online at www.upenn.edu/almanac. The deadline for the October AT PENN calendar is today, September 15. Info. is on the sponsoring department’s website; sponsors are in parentheses. For locations, call (215) 898-5000 or see www.facilities.upenn.edu

**Prescription Eyeglass Collection on Campus**

Those who have old prescription glasses, readers or sunglasses they no longer need can put them to good use by dropping them off at one of the following campus locations:

- SAS Graduate Division, 3401 Walnut Street, Suite 322A
- Annenberg Public Policy Center, 202 South 36th St., Lobby (M-F 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.)
- Wharton Finance & Administration, Steinberg Hall–Diethrich Hall, 3620 Locust Walk, Suite 1100
- Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine, West Pavilion, 3rd Floor, Ophthalmology Waiting Room

The Staff Eco-Reps are collecting and sending them to Vision Service Plan (VSP) Global’s Eyes on the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

**History Comes Alive at Morris Arboretum’s Grist Mill Day**

On Sunday, September 20, from 1 to 4 p.m., Morris Arboretum will host Grist Mill Demonstration Day at Bloomfield Farm (across the street from the garden’s main entrance). Families and history buffs alike will enjoy a visual narrative of the social, economic and technological role mills played in food production in the 19th century. Springfield Mills, one of the Arboretum’s oldest architectural features, has been carefully restored and made operational again by a group of dedicated volunteers. Watch one-ton millstones grind corn and wheat kernels. Observe 160-year-old machinery transport and sift the grind to produce meal and flour that will be added to the ingredients to bake muffins on site. Craig SanPietro (below) describes the process. Kids and adults will have the opportunity to grind flour on the pedal powered mill. Free admission but donations appreciated.

For more information, go to www.morrisarboretum.org or call (215) 247-5777.

**Almanac on-the-Go: RSS Feeds**

Almanac provides links to select stories each week there is an issue, RSS is a way to distribute new content to users of RSS readers or news aggregators directly to your computer and other web-enabled devices. Visit Almanac’s website, www.upenn.edu/almanac for instructions on how to subscribe to the Almanac RSS Feed.

**The University of Pennsylvania Police Department Community Crime Report**

**About the Crime Report:** Below are all Crimes Against Persons and Crimes Against Society from the campus report for August 31-September 6, 2015. Also reported were 17 Crimes Against Property (12 thefts, 2 traffic violations, 1 DUI, 1 fraud and 1 other offense). Full reports are available at: www.upenn.edu/almanac/volumes/v62/05/creport.html Prior weeks’ reports are also online. —Eds. This summary is prepared by the Division of Public Safety and includes all criminal incidents reported and made known to the University Police Department between the dates of August 31-September 6, 2015. The University Police actively patrol from Market Street to Baltimore Avenue and from the Schuylkill River to 43rd Street in conjunction with the Philadelphia Police. In this effort to provide you with a thorough and accurate report on public safety concerns, we hope that your increased awareness will lessen the opportunity for crime. For any concerns or suggestions regarding this report, please call the Division of Public Safety at (215) 898-4482.

09/04/15 9:44 AM 400 University Ave
09/06/15 10:54 PM 4033 Baltimore Ave
Complainant punched by unknown male
Male assaulted girlfriend/Arrest

**18th District Report**

Below are the Crimes Against Persons from the 18th District: 3 incidents with 1 arrest (2 aggravated assaults and 1 assault) were reported between August 31-September 6, 2015 by the 18th District covering the Schuylkill River to 49th Street & Market Street to Woodland Avenue.

09/02/15 10:59 AM 1231 S 49th St
09/04/15 10:19 AM 433 University Ave
Aggravated Assault
Assault
09/06/15 11:33 PM 4033 Baltimore Ave
Aggravated Assault/Arrest
Christopher Knowles: In a Word

Christopher Knowles is regarded as a poet and painter, yet his output is broader than this suggests. This exhibition, his most comprehensive to date, spans many media—text, sound, painting, drawing, sculpture and performance—including pieces made in collaboration with esteemed theater director Robert Wilson. The work records and reorders the everyday materials around us using incantatory rhythms and repetition. Typings of language permutations, reimagined song lyrics and interlocking blocks of raw color commonly depict family and close friends. Sculptures are precise and direct in construction: polka-dotted cones, brilliantly hued paper cutouts, Lego structures and accumulations of wind-up alarm clocks. Performances feature daily routines rendered into theatrical exaggeration.

This exhibition was co-organized by chief curator Anthony Elms and guest curator Hilton Als, writer and chief theater critic for The New Yorker.

Josephine Pryde: lapses in Thinking By the person I Am

Josephine Pryde presents a new body of commissioned work for her first United States museum exhibition. It could be said that the composition, lighting and general style of Ms. Pryde’s photographs recall fashion and portrait photography, but this would ignore the fact that fashion and portrait photography refer to art photographs, snapshots, documentary footage and more. This exhibition includes more than 20 photographs of hands shot with a macro lens so that detail can be enlarged in the final frame. The hands have brightly painted nails and are depicted in contact with a range of touch-sensitive devices—lamps, tablets, phones, human chests. The photographs may be viewed on foot; alternately, a fully functioning miniature rideable train offers visitors a short trip along the route of the show.

This exhibition was organized for CCA Wattis Institute in San Francisco by curator and head of programs Jamie Stevens, and organized at ICA by chief curator Anthony Elms.

Becky Suss

Becky Suss presents selections from her most recent body of work in her first solo museum exhibition. These meditative, large-scale paintings, augmented by smaller studies in oil and ceramic, reimagine the domestic spaces of her relatives with a focus on her late grandparents’ mid-century suburban home. The flattened architecture and exaggerated perspective of Ms. Suss’s canvases memorialize their collected art and objects through an intimate, archeological process that opens familial narrative to questions of class, politics and religion. Echoed in these works are the migratory shifts and political climates of Cold War America, from suburban sprawl to the Red Scare. Psychic and physical space is conflated as Ms. Suss works through memories and mythologies embedded within these interiors. Her ICA exhibition expands this inquiry with several new canvases and experiments in larger, more labor-intensive ceramic forms.

This exhibition was organized by ICA associate curator Kate Kraczon.